

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of reducing steroidogenic acute regulatory (StAR) gene expression comprising administering an amount of progesterone receptor agonist to a patient in need thereof, wherein said StAR gene expression is reduced.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said progesterone receptor agonist is selected from the group consisting of progesterone, R5020, and drospirenone.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein adrenal steroid synthesis is abnormally increased in said patient in need thereof due to pathologically activated stimulation mechanisms.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient in need thereof has a pathological condition of steroid synthesis.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said pathological condition of steroid synthesis is selected from the group consisting of: chronic stress, alcohol deprivation, endogenous depression, ACTH-secreting tumours of the adenohypophyseal, or metastases thereof, gonadotropin-secreting tumours of the adenohypophyseal, or metastases thereof, ectopic ACTH syndrome (bronchial carcinoids), prostate hyperplasia, cancer, micronodular adrenal disease, congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), pubertas praecox, virilising syndrome, and polycystic ovary with proven androgen hypersecretion.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said reduced StAR gene expression provides treatment to said patient in need thereof selected from the group consisting of therapeutic and prophylactic.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said progesterone receptor agonist is administered orally.
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein said reduced StAR gene expression is independent of inhibition of supra-adrenal factors.
9. The method according to claim 1, wherein said supra-adrenal factors are selected from a group consisting of corticotropins and gonadotropins.
10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said StAR gene expression is reduced by at least 20%.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said StAR gene expression is reduced by at least 30%.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said StAR gene expression is reduced by at least 50%.
13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said patient in need thereof has a pathologically increased activity of the adrenal cortex.
14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said pathologically increased activity of the adrenal cortex is due to a congenital glucocorticoid receptor resistance.
15. The method according to claim 13, wherein said pathologically increased activity of the adrenal cortex is due to a medically induced glucocorticoid receptor resistance.
16. A sample from a patient in need thereof with a pathological condition of steroid synthesis, wherein said patient in need thereof is treated with a progesterone receptor agonist, and wherein StAR gene expression is reduced in said patient in need thereof.
17. The sample according to claim 16, wherein said patient in need thereof is a mammal.
18. The sample according to claim 17, wherein said mammal is a human.
19. The sample according to claim 16, wherein said progesterone receptor agonist is selected from the group consisting of progesterone, R5020, and drospirenone.
20. A sample from a patient in need thereof with a pathological condition of steroid synthesis, wherein said sample is treated with a progesterone receptor agonist, and wherein StAR gene expression is reduced in said sample.